



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Recommendation to the Commission

Party Submitting Recommendation: Emergency Shelter Care Subcommittee

Date of Submission: 4/14/2021

Type of Action Requested:

Legislation Administrative Rule or Policy Resolution of Support or Endorsement Professional/skills development

Other: _____

Which of the Commission's Strategic Priorities does this Recommendation help advance (check all that apply):

Child Health and Safety Juvenile Justice and Cross-system Youth
 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Educational Outcomes

Summary of Recommendation:

Provide education and training to foster parents regarding the needs of older youth to enhance utilization of foster care for youth that need that level of care. Additionally, provide alternative resources that could assist in serving youth such as Safe Place.

Background of Recommendation:

What is the need or problem, and how does it impact disparate populations?

It is challenging to identify foster homes that are willing to foster youth that are involved in the delinquency system or are older youth. By increasing the training and support for the foster care system, more youth can be placed in a home-like setting and decrease the utilization of shelter care so that those shelter care resources can be reserved for youth that need that level of care.

What data, research or other information did the recommender consult to formulate this proposal?

The root of the problem is the bias towards serving older youth in the delinquency system or older youth in general. The bias is throughout the entire system. The data was gathered through the multiple surveys that were sent out to stakeholders. Additionally, the members of the group provided their own experiences and perspectives regarding the deficits of the system and opportunities for improvement.

What disproportionality did the data reveal?

The data revealed that there is bias throughout the entire system towards serving older youth in the delinquency system or older youth in general.

What is the current response to the problem by the State of Indiana?

Currently there are minimal pockets but no coordinated statewide effort to provide information, training and support to the foster care system to care for older youth.

What solution is the recommender proposing, and how does it affect disparate populations?

The recommendation is to provide training to the foster care system to destigmatize and better understand the needs of older youth.

How does the solution address the disproportionality in the data?

By increasing the capacity to serve older youth in the foster care system, the needs of those youth will be met and additionally there will be enhanced capacity to serve youth in the emergency shelter care system.

Implementation:

Who is responsible for implementing the recommendation?

Department of Child Services and Licensed Child Placing Agencies (LCPAs)

Has the recommendation been discussed with the implementer?

Yes No

What is the recommended timeframe for the Commission to review implementation?

6 months 12 months 18 months Other _____

If a legislative request, cite the current relevant code and specify what change is being recommended.

N/A

If a policy request, cite the current relevant policy and specify what change is being recommended.

N/A

If the recommendation involves an endorsement or public promotion of a specific initiative or statement, attach the document of which you are seeking the Commission's support/endorsement/promotion.